

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/733,372

Examiner

Matthew S. Gart

Applicant(s)

PETERSEN, PAUL R.

Art Unit

3625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Ex. Amend 3/12/2007 and RCE 1/31/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3-8, 10-14 and 22-27.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).


* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 3/12/2007.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


MATTHEW S. GART
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Edward W. Bulchis (Ph. 206-903-8800) on March 12, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Title

The title has been changed to read as follows:

--Method and system for purchasing a memory upgrade for a computer system--

In the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method for facilitating a purchase of a memory upgrade for a computer system, comprising:

obtaining memory configuration information for the computer system, the memory configuration information being obtained from the computer system without requiring that the memory configuration information be entered into the computer system by a user;

obtaining memory specification information for a memory upgrade option by accessing information from the Internet;

determining a plurality of memory upgrade options that will work in the computer system based upon the memory configuration information and the memory specification information;

presenting the plurality of memory upgrade options to a the user;

allowing the user of the computer system to explore the plurality of memory upgrade options and select a memory upgrade option;

presenting an option to purchase the selected memory upgrade option to the user of the computer system; and

in response to the user indicating that the user would like to purchase the selected memory upgrade option, automatically initiating a purchase transaction for the memory upgrade option by:

automatically initiating the purchase transaction through a website that facilitates purchasing the memory upgrade option by automatically navigating to a web page within the web site that deals with purchasing memory modules; and

automatically sending to the website the ~~memory configuration information~~ selected memory upgrade option without intervention by the user so that the user does not have to reenter the ~~memory configuration information~~ selected memory upgrade option.

Art Unit: 3625

8. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage ~~medium~~ device storing instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a method for facilitating a purchase of a memory upgrade for a computer system, the method comprising:

obtaining memory configuration information for the computer system, the memory configuration information being obtained from the computer system without requiring that the memory configuration information be entered into the computer system by a user;

obtaining memory specification information for a memory upgrade option by accessing information from the Internet;

determining a plurality of memory upgrade options that will work in the computer system based upon the memory configuration information and the memory specification information;

presenting the plurality of memory upgrade options to a the user;

allowing the user of the computer system to explore the plurality of memory upgrade options and select a memory upgrade option;

presenting an option to purchase the selected memory upgrade option to the user of the computer system; and

in response to the user indicating that the user would like to purchase the selected memory upgrade option, automatically initiating a purchase transaction for the memory upgrade option by:

automatically initiating the purchase transaction through a website that facilitates purchasing the memory upgrade option by automatically navigating to a web page within the web site that deals with purchasing memory modules; and

automatically sending to the website the ~~memory configuration information~~ selected memory upgrade option without intervention by the user so that the user does not have to reenter the ~~memory configuration information~~ selected memory upgrade option.

10. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage ~~medium~~ device of claim 8, wherein the method further comprises automatically transferring at least part of the memory configuration information to the web site so that the user does not have to reenter details of the memory configuration information into the web site.

11. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage ~~medium~~ device of claim 8, wherein obtaining the memory configuration information involves reading serial presence detect information from a non-volatile storage device with a memory module in the computer system.

12. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage ~~medium~~ device of claim 8, wherein determining the memory upgrade option involves:

identifying a plurality of memory upgrade options that will work in the computer system based upon the memory configuration information; and

Art Unit: 3625

allowing the user to select the memory upgrade option from the plurality of memory upgrade options.

13. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage ~~medium~~ device of claim 8, wherein obtaining the memory configuration information involves obtaining at least one of:

- an amount of memory installed in the computer system;
- a maximum amount of memory that can be installed in the computer system;
- a number of memory module sockets that are available to accept memory modules in the computer system; and
- an operating speed for memory in the computer system.

14. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage ~~medium~~ device of claim 8, wherein prior to obtaining the memory configuration information, the method further comprise receiving a command from the user to initiate a memory upgrade for the computer system.

15. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (New) An apparatus for facilitating a purchase of a memory upgrade for a computer system, said apparatus comprising: a processor; a computer readable device coupled to said processor; and computer readable code encoded in said computer readable device and executable by said processor to cause said processor to:

obtain memory configuration information for the computer system, the memory configuration information being obtained from the computer system without requiring that the memory configuration information be entered into the computer system by a user;

obtain memory specification information for a memory upgrade option by accessing information from the Internet;

determine a plurality of memory upgrade options that will work in the computer system based upon the memory configuration information and the memory specification information;

present the plurality of memory upgrade options to the user;

allow the user of the computer system to explore the plurality of memory upgrade options and select a memory upgrade option;

present an option to purchase the selected memory upgrade option to the user of the computer system; and

in response to the user indicating that the user would like to purchase the selected memory upgrade option, automatically initiating a purchase transaction for the memory upgrade option by:

automatically initiating the purchase transaction through a website that facilitates purchasing the memory upgrade option by automatically navigating to a web page within the web site that deals with purchasing memory modules; and

automatically sending to the website the selected memory upgrade option without intervention by the user so that the user does not have to reenter the selected memory upgrade option.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising code encoded in said computer readable device and executable by said processor to automatically transfer at least part of the memory configuration information to the web site so that the user does not have to reenter details of the memory configuration information into the web site.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising code encoded in said computer readable device and executable by said processor to read serial presence detect information from a non-volatile storage device with a memory module in the computer system

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising code encoded in said computer readable device and executable by said processor to:

Art Unit: 3625

identify a plurality of memory upgrade options that will work in the computer system based upon the memory configuration information; and to

allow the user to select the memory upgrade option from the plurality of memory upgrade options.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising code encoded in said computer readable device and executable by said processor to obtain at least one of:

an amount of memory installed in the computer system;

a maximum amount of memory that can be installed in the computer system;

a number of memory module sockets that are available to accept memory modules in the computer system; and

an operating speed for memory in the computer system.

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising code encoded in said computer readable device and executable by said processor to receive a command from the user to initiate a memory upgrade for the computer system.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record neither anticipates nor fairly and reasonably teaches, *inter alia*, obtaining memory specification information for a memory upgrade option by accessing information from the Internet; and determining a plurality of memory upgrade options that will work in the computer system based upon the memory configuration information and the memory specification information.

The most notable prior art of record is to alSafadi (U.S. Patent No. 6,467,088) in view of Henson (U.S. Patent No. 6,167,383). alSafadi discloses a reconfiguration manager that may be implemented on a computer or other data processing device to control the reconfiguration of software or other components of an electronic device. In accordance with alSafadi, the reconfiguration manager compares the needed and currently implemented components of a computer system with previously stored lists of known acceptable and unacceptable configurations for the electronic device. If the needed and currently implemented components correspond to a configuration on the list of acceptable configurations, the request is approved and the needed components are downloaded or otherwise supplied to the electronic device.

alSafadi does not disclose obtaining memory specification information for a memory upgrade option by accessing information from the Internet; and determining a plurality of memory upgrade options that will work in the computer system based upon the memory configuration information and the memory specification information.

Art Unit: 3625

Henson discloses a web-based online store including a configurator in which a user interface of the online store enables a custom configuration of a computer system. However, the configurator does not determine a plurality of memory upgrade options based upon obtained memory configuration information for the computer system, Henson provides recommendations in accordance with the identification of the user belonging to the prescribed customer set.

EXAMINER COMMENTS

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/31/2007 has been entered.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

EP0928091A2, 07-1999, Digital Equipment Corp, discloses configuring client software using remote notification.

"RAM Upgrade Tips to Remember," Kirk Steers, PC World Online, San Francisco, July 1, 1999, pg. 1, discloses steps individuals should utilize before buying memory.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew S. Gart whose telephone number is 571-272-3955. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Smith can be reached on 571-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3625

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MSG
Primary Examiner
March 12, 2007


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